

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01

SP-02 USIA-06 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

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P R 081248Z SEP 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1796

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2449

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 8705

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, EEC, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD MEETING ON COMMODITIES - COPPER - PRELIMINARY
CONSUMER DISCUSSIONS

REF: A) STATE 219328, B) EC BRUSSELS 8634 (NOTAL),

C) LONDON 14033, D) STATE 197486

1. MISSION OFFICER DISCUSSED WITH EC COMMISSION
OFFICIALS HANDLING UNCTAD COPPER NEGOTIATIONS
(NICOLAI, DG III, AND RUSSELL, DG VIII) INSTRUCTIONS
CONTAINED IN REF A. NICOLAI HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED
WITH MEMBER STATE EXPERTS EARLIER U.S. PROPOSAL (REF D)
THAT PREPARATORY MEETING OF COPPER CONSUMERS MIGHT
BE HELD AFTER OECD HIGH LEVEL GROUP (HLG) ON COMMODITIES.
EC EXPERTS PREFERRED HAVING SUCH CONSULTATIONS ON THE
SIDELINES OF THE HLG RATHER THAN ORGANIZING A SEPARATE
MEETING. THUS, IN LIGHT OF THIS REACTION, NICOLAI
BELIEVES THAT THE EC WILL LIKELY AGREE TO OUR MOST
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RECENT PROPOSAL OF HOLDING CONSULTATIONS AS PART OF HLG AND
PERHAPS EXTENDING THE MEETING INTO SEPTEMBER 23. HE PLANS

TO TAKE THIS PROPOSAL UP WITH EC COMMODITIES WORKING GROUP ON
SEPTEMBER 10 AND WILL INFORM US OF EC VIEWS AFTER THE MEETING.

2. NICOLAI TOOK NOTE OF THE INTENTION OF THE US
DELEGATE TO THE UNCTAD COPPER MEETING TO GO TO PARIS
TO ATTEND THE LAST PART OF HLG, SHOULD DISCUSSION ON
COPPER BE HELD ON SEPT 23. NICOLAI DID NOT KNOW HOW MANY
MEMBER STATES WOULD BE ABLE TO SEND SIMILAR EXPERTS BUT
HE WOULD INFORM THEM OF US PLANS. REGARDING SUBSTANTIVE POINTS
FOR HLG DISCUSSION, NICOLAI SAID THE COMMISSION WAS PROPOSING
TO EC WORKING GROUP THAT THE LEGOUX PREPARATORY GROUP
BECOME THE OFFICIAL FORUM FOR THE UNCTAD COPPER DISCUSSIONS.
HE SUGGESTS THAT THE ISSUE OF A POSSIBLE BUFFER STOCK BE
KEPT TO THE LAST; CERTAINLY THIS ISSUE SHOULD NOT BE DIS-
CUSSED BEFORE NEXT YEAR. HE ADDED THAT THE EC WAS NOT
YET PREPARED TO CARRY OUT SUBSTANTIVE CONSULTATIONS IN
GREAT DETAIL.

3. RUSSELL SUGGESTED THAT RATHER THAN ADDING COPPER TO
HLG AGENDA, THIS ITEM COULD APPROPRIATELY BE INCORPORATED
INTO ITEM 5A ON CURRENT AGENDA. BOTH RUSSELL AND NICOLAI
SAID SEVERAL MEMBER STATES HAD EXPRESSED MINOR CONCERN OVER
POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF CANADA AND AUSTRALIA IN THESE
PROPOSED CONSULTATIONS OF CONSUMER COUNTRIES. THEY DID NOT
BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THIS WOULD BE A MAJOR PROBLEM. HINTON

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